

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for producing rubber from a rubber latex comprising spraying a rubber latex into an atmosphere of a shock wave generated from pulse combustion to thereby dry the rubber.

2. (Original) A method for producing rubber as claimed in claim 1, wherein a solid concentration of the rubber latex is 60% by weight or less, in terms of dry rubber.

3. (Currently amended) A method for producing rubber as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a frequency of the pulse combustion is 250 to 1200 Hz and a temperature of a drying chamber for spraying the latex is 140°C or less.

4. (Currently amended) A method for producing rubber as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the rubber latex is a natural rubber latex.

5. (Original) A method for producing rubber as claimed in claim 4, further comprising spray drying under an atmosphere of a shock wave generated from the pulse combustion in the presence of a viscosity stabilizing agent added to the natural rubber latex.

6. (Original) A method for producing rubber as claimed in claim 5, wherein the amount of the viscosity stabilizing agent is at least 0.001 part by weight based upon 100 parts by weight of solid content in the latex.

7. (Currently amended) A method for producing rubber as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the viscosity stabilizing agent is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl amines, semicarbazides and dimedones.

8. (Currently amended) A rubber composition obtainable from a method according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.